FBI Suspected Agent Spied For Soviets, New Book Says

Post 6/25/79

Associated Press

FBI officials suspected that one of their New York agents was spying for the Soviet Union in the late 1960s, according to the memoirs of a former bureau executive.

"By the time I left the FBI in 1971, the Russians still had a man in our office and we still never knew who he was," wrote William C. Sullivan in a book to be published in September entitled "The Bureau: My 30 Years in Hoover's FBI."

Another former intelligence official confirmed Sullivan's account of the incident and said the bureau was never able to determine whether there was a traitor in the ranks.

"There was concern for a period of time about the Soviets having somebody in the New York office" said this source, who requested anonymith. "An extensive investigation was made —it was very hush-hush—but to may knowledge, a determination was never made.'

Another former bureau official said Sullivan "was always convinced that we were penetrated, but it's hard to tell whether we were or not."

Asked about Sullivan's account, FBI spokesman Homer Boyton declined to comment "until we have a chance to review the book"

Sullivan was the bureau's third-ranking official when he was forced to retire in 1971 after a long and bitter feud with then-Director J. Edgar Hoover. Previously, he had been assistant director in charge of intelligence operations for 10 years.

Sullivan was killed in 1977 in a hunting accident near his New Hampshire home. He had compiled much of the book before his death and is collaborator, New York writer and television producer Bill Brown, completed the manuscript.